

Class #2: The Explanations

Possible Naturalistic Explanations:

1. _____ theory
2. _____ theory
3. _____ theory
4. _____ theory

Conspiracy theory: *Disciples _____ the resurrection, _____ his body, and _____ about seeing Jesus alive*

- Objections:
 - Jews had no concept of a Messiah _____, _____, and _____ from the dead
 - Resurrection was a _____ event that happened at the end of the world, completely _____ from the Messiah
 - People don't _____ die for something they know to be _____
- No scholar defends this theory today

Apparent death theory: *Jesus didn't really _____, revived in the _____, somehow escaped, and convinced his disciples that he had _____*

- Objections:
 - It's medically _____ for someone to survive crucifixion – Roman executionists were _____
 - It's wildly _____ that disciples would have been convinced that Jesus was gloriously risen if he was bleeding and barely _____
- No New Testament historian defends this theory today

Displaced Body theory: *Joseph placed Jesus' body in his tomb _____ but then moved it to a common criminal graveyard, so the disciples were _____ he rose when they couldn't find the body*

- Objections:
 - Jewish _____ prohibited moving a body after it was _____ (except to the family tomb)
 - The criminal's graveyard was _____ to the cross than Joseph's tomb – would not have made sense to move it to the graveyard _____
 - Joseph would have _____ the disciples' proclamation of the resurrection
- No current scholars endorse this theory

Hallucination theory: *The disciples did not really _____ Jesus but just _____ Jesus appeared*

- Objections:
 - Jesus appeared more than _____, in multiple _____, to different _____, to groups and _____, and to believers and _____

- Hallucinations would have led the disciples to believe at most that Jesus was transported to _____ not risen from the _____ (this contradicted Jewish beliefs)
- In the ancient world, visions of the _____ were not evidence of a person being _____ but being _____ and had moved on to the afterworld
- Does not attempt to explain the historical fact of the _____

God raised Jesus from the dead

- Makes perfect sense of the facts.
- Is it plausible? Requires a _____.
- If the existence of God is _____, so is this _____.

Why is this important?

Jesus claimed:

- To be the _____
- To be the _____ of _____
- To be the _____ of _____